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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BUCHAREST 001286

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STATE FOR EUR/NCE - JUDY GARBER; NSC FOR STERLING

EO 12958 DECL: 11/16/2017
TAGS PREL, PGOV, KLIG, MARR, RO
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL IMPACT IN ROMANIA OF TEO PETER "FINAL
OFFER"

Classified By: Ambassador Nicholas F. Taubman for Reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: The impending "final offer" by the U.S. Army Foreign Claims Service, Europe to the family of the late Romanian rock star Teofan Peter, one of Romania's best known and most beloved rock musicians, was killed on December 4, 2004, in a Bucharest car accident involving the family for the funeral costs of Mr. Peter's burial.
¶2. (C) The U.S. Army Claims Service, Europe currently plans to send legal representatives of the Peter family final offers amounting to \$80,000 BUCHAREST 00001286 002 OF 003
¶3. (C) Teo Peter's survivors reportedly initially requested a multi-million dollar settlement. In a November 1 letter to the Ambassador from the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, we were informed that the family had accepted a lump sum payment of \$80,000.
¶4. (C) Once the award is communicated to the family's legal counsel at Arent Fox on Wednesday, November 21 (the day before Thanksgiving), we expect the family to accept the offer.
¶5. (C) Another report we received in recent days was a suggestion that Romanian law enforcement authorities, working through EU channels, would seek to prosecute Teo Peter's killers.
¶6. (C) More seriously, we anticipate that the Peter award offer, and subsequent media attention, will embolden critics of the Romanian deployment of troops in Iraq.
¶7. (C) There are other, less predictable, risk factors at play. In the wake of this week's controversy over the Ambassador's criticism of the U.S. policy in Iraq, we expect that the Romanian government will take a more critical stance towards the U.S. Embassy.
¶8. (C) What little guidance we have received from the U.S. Army Claims Service, Europe suggests that all Romanian media inquiries are to be responded to in a factual and non-committal manner.
¶9. (C) In short, our hope is that this latest policy and public affairs challenge related to the 2004 car accident will be manageable. But we must remain alert to potential developments.